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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-------------------|-------------------------|---|------------|---------------------------|
| In re Applicants: | Craig D. Johnson et al. | § | Art Unit: | 3679 |
| Serial No.: | 10/708,517 | § | | |
| Filed: | March 9, 2004 | § | Examiner: | Aaron M. Dunwoody |
| Title: | JOINING TUBULAR MEMBERS | § | Docket No. | 68.0322US (SHL.0238US) |

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

Dear Sir:

Please cancel claims 50, 52, 53, 55-60, 62-67 and 70 without prejudice in accordance with the following CLAIM AMENDMENTS section; and consider the comments in the following REMARKS section.

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| Date of Deposit: November 20, 2006 |
| I certify that this document and authorization to charge deposit account is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. 571-273-8300) on the date indicated above. |
| <i>Janice Munoz</i> |
| Janice Munoz |